

Good day. My name is Micah Lopin. I am a high school student in the wonderful state of Connecticut.

In America, our Constitution guarantees us the right to speak out peaceably, even if we all don't agree. So I am glad to be exercising that right today. And today, I would like to speak to you about another right our Constitution guarantees law-abiding citizens. The second Amendment states, "The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

We are all very grateful for the brave men and women of the police departments. However, 911 calls are mostly made during or after a crime has been committed. Police officers usually arrive on the scene too late to prevent a crime. They are simply looking to stop and contain the criminal as quickly as possible. The massacre at Sandy Hook is a tragic example of this.

Although police officers have saved many lives, they do not possess the supernatural power to appear on the scene of a crime in an instant. Often, only the victim or intended victim of an attacker is present at the scene at the vital moment when someone can act to save his own life or the life of his family. A law-abiding citizen who knows how to use a higher capacity firearm has a fighting chance to stop aggressive and multiple attackers before those assailants harm that citizen or his family. Therefore I am opposed to restrictions on magazine capacity.

By implementing punitive taxes on purchases of bullets, or strict laws on different magazines, you are only making it nearly impossible for everyday citizens to protect themselves and their families from a criminal. We will never know what could have happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School if one or more teachers had carried a firearm. While we grieve deeply with the families of the victims, trying to imagine the pain they are going through, we cannot make hasty decisions based solely on our emotions. As a student I can tell you that I would feel much safer in a school where teachers and staff were allowed to carry concealed firearms. Not every teacher would need to so. The element of not knowing who is or isn't armed is a deterrent to the Adam Lanzas of the world, who as things stand now, know fully well that everyone in a gun-free zone such as a school is pretty much helpless to defend themselves.

These strict laws being proposed will not hinder criminals. They just hinder honest people who want to protect themselves from those criminals.

I encourage you to consider action that enforces existing laws against violent crimes, and to research the underlying causes of violence as part of the task of reducing violence. Guns are not violent; criminals are. Please do not reduce our God-given right to defend ourselves and our families. Thank you.

Micah Lopin --- Milford  
Sent from my iPhone